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October 4, 2011

U.S. Department of Education  
Application Control Center  
Attention: (CFDA Number 84.412\_)  
LBJ Basement Level 1  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW.  
Washington, DC 20202-4260

As Co-Chairs of the Wisconsin Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC), we are pleased to submit this letter of support for Wisconsin's application for the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Grant. Wisconsin's ECAC is a broad-based public-private leadership group that has worked since 2008 to help shape Wisconsin's reform agenda around building a quality early childhood system. One of our over-riding goals is that children should enter school at kindergarten ready to succeed. We believe that our reform agenda - as advanced by this grant opportunity - will help our state best prepare children for success in school and beyond.

The ECAC has been actively involved in assessing the state's early childhood system and crafting recommendations that will advance efforts to develop a more comprehensive early childhood system in Wisconsin. This work has included identifying annual goals and objectives that are in alignment with Wisconsin's RTTT-ELCG goals. In addition, the ECAC has served as a mechanism to receive public input regarding the proposed goals and activities outlined in this application.

We are committed to facilitating the work of the ECAC to further advance the identified system reform goals and are excited to see the ambitious, yet achievable, goals to advance Wisconsin's efforts to build a comprehensive early learning system. This agenda includes a comprehensive kindergarten readiness assessment, support to implement the state's plan for an early childhood longitudinal data system, assistance in accelerating the success of Wisconsin's YoungStar QRIS system, strengthening family and community engagement efforts that are evidence-based, and strengthening Wisconsin's early childhood professional development system. Toward that end, we will work with the participating agencies to provide oversight and guidance as Wisconsin implements the recommendations outlined in this application.

We appreciate your careful consideration of Wisconsin's application, and pledge our continued support for evidence-based approaches to ensuring that Wisconsin's children enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and in life.

Sincerely,

Eloise Anderson  
Secretary, Department of Children and Families

Anthony Evers, Ph.D,  
Superintendent, Wisconsin Department  
of Public Instruction